

on their duties, and 'not cause the country and the people to suffer from the evil consequences of a stubborn pride and prejudiced opinions/'

The secret Edict already referred to, which did not appear until February 13, authorized Yuan to make arrangements for Abdication with the People's Army.

Objection was immediately taken to the terms of Abdication by the Republicans, especially to the conferring upon Yuan Shih-kai of full power to organize a Provisional Republican Government.

Dr. Sun telegraphed that "the Republican Government cannot be organized by any authority conferred by the Ching Emperor. The exercise of such pre-tentious power must surely lead to serious trouble." *

He invited Yuan to come to Nanking at once, or to send a fully accredited representative thither.

Yuan Shih-kai disclaimed any intention of taking advantage of the actual construction of the Edict referred to, and ordered Tang Shao-yi to proceed to Nanking as his representative. There, on February 13, in conference with Dr. Sun and the Republican Cabinet, it was arranged that he and his Ministers would tender their resignations to the National Council on the understanding that Yuan Shih-kai would be elected President, and that the Capital should be transferred to Nanking.

It is curious to note that before Dr.

Sun had
tendered his resignation (which was not
accepted
until February 15) Yuan Shih-kai (on
the isth)
issued a Proclamation as
"Plenipotentiary for the
Organization of the Provisional
Republican Govern-
ment" enjoining all officials in the
metropolis and